



# Scarborough Southwest NDP

## Winter - Spring 2013 Newsletter

### **SSW NDP continues to advocate for a strong, progressive, social democratic NDP!**

Since our last membership newsletter, the SSW NDP has continued to remain active within our community and within our own party to ensure that the NDP maintains itself as the voice of social democracy and leftist politics in Ontario and Canada.

Your riding executive has been holding regular issue discussion to ensure that our members are educated and informed about issues that we feel need to be at the forefront. We have been strongly advocating for tax fairness and progressive taxation, and have now held two public meetings in conjunction with [Canadians for Tax Fairness](#). For too long those at the top have not been paying their fair share of income taxes. We have been strongly advocating within our own party and to the community that the NDP needs to advance the tax fairness agenda. The divide between the very wealthy and the rest of Canadian workers has steadily increased.

Unfortunately our society seems to have accepted the notion that personal income taxes are bad, and that any tax increase is bad. This is simply not true. Our society must ensure that we have sustainable tax revenues to pay for programs and services of equal quality to all Canadians regardless of their income. Instead we have seen multiple governments ignore the growing wealth divide, and have allowed for individuals to amass massive amounts of wealth at the expense of workers, and the health of our public services. This is not fair. We want to see a healthy and strong middle and working class. We strongly believe that the wealthy should be paying their fair share. We encourage you to look more at [Canadians for Tax Fairness](#) and some of their resources for more information. <http://www.taxfairness.ca/>

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

The SSW NDP has also made it a priority to attend local events, protests, rallies and support striking workers. In the summer of 2013 our executive members Jessica Shaw, Tom Grinnell, Diana McLaren, Rosemary Dale, and Ian Robert supported striking workers at Porter Airlines on their picket line. The NDP is still the voice for workers and labour and we want it to remain that way.

We have also strongly supported to efforts of Bob Spencer and his team who work tirelessly to produce and distribute the Bluffs Advocate newspaper. While this is not an NDP paper, it is the only local media source that allows for progressive, well researched news stories of both local and progressive interests. I encourage you to check out and support the Bluffs Advocate at

[Http://www.bluffsadvocate.ca](http://www.bluffsadvocate.ca)

Our riding executive has also remained strongly committed to democracy within our own party. We want to ensure that nomination contests in ridings remain fair and transparent, and that candidates are democratically elected. Our delegates to the NDP provincial council and our riding executive have been committed to ensuring that party leadership is accountable to you, the NDP membership.

I also strongly recommend you check out the campaign by the Ontario Federation of Labour to stop Tim Hudak's efforts to destroy unions and the rights of union and non-union workers in Ontario

<http://ofl.ca/index.php/campaigns/rightsatwork/>

Thank you for reading this month. If you are willing to help us out, please do not hesitate to email or phone me.

As always, stay in touch, and visit our website at [sswndp.ca](http://sswndp.ca).

Tom Grinnell, Membership Organizer

## **SSW NDP Member Profile: Diana McLaren**

Throughout my idealistic youth I'd argue with all comers about the merits of democratic socialism as we called it then. Put simply, I'd say, I believed the principle associated with Karl Marx: "From each according to his ability to each according to his need."

Now that I'm a senior I can honestly say I still believe in this fundamental golden rule of the left, but I don't see its realization on the horizon the way I did when I first argued at dinner tables and doorsteps in that long-ago youth.



Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

I grew up as a post-war baby boomer in Hamilton. I left for the bright lights of Toronto at a pretty early stage of life because my husband, newly graduated from McMaster, decided to chuck the teaching career he was half-heartedly pursuing in favour of his true passion: music.

Over the decades in Toronto, I attended university, raised two kids, was active in local community organizations, worked at various jobs including more than a decade at Ryerson. And heard a lot of great music.

I'd returned to school in mid-life to study journalism at Centennial College when it was on Warden Ave. because it was close to my house and I could be home when my kids returned from school each day.

Freelance journalism and contracts allowed me to quit my fulltime job ten years ago so I've been able to balance work and activism (and time at Variety Village). I've been an NDP lifer and worked in too many elections to count. Then three years ago I joined the executive of our Scarborough Southwest Riding Association and I've been active on our outreach committee. We've educated ourselves on issues and debated them at our monthly meetings. Sometimes this has led us to take action: pass resolutions, write letters, hold public meetings, attend rallies.

I love the camaraderie we share as we fight the good fight on behalf of social justice and equality. And with the spirit of the Hammer still in me, I love the dedication of our members who keep believing that a fair wealth-based tax system can support robust public services, that the environment must be saved, and that future generations matter.

When a day dawns with hope it's a good day and I remember a quotation I love:

*"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."*

— Arundhati Roy, Indian author and activist

## Did You know?



Too many Canadians are working full-time but remain in poverty. This isn't right. Workers deserve to be paid a living wage.

The Canadian Labour movement, including the Toronto and York Region Labour Council has been advocating for a \$14 minimum wage – a wage just 10% above the poverty line.

Let the government, and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath know that workers deserve better. For more information visit

<http://raisetheminimumwage.ca/>

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

---

**International Women's Day:** First recognized in 1908, International Women's Day is a day of action and celebration that is observed every year on March 8th in over 100 countries worldwide. The 2014 theme of International Women's Day is "Inspiring Change", and women from across Scarborough-Southwest will be coming together to share stories of struggle, inspiration, and hope.

We invite all women and men to join us at AccessPoint on Danforth (3079 Danforth Ave) between 12-4pm on Saturday, March 8th 2014. Join us and our special guest Shirley Douglas, as we celebrate our successes, and rally against the issues that continue to negatively impact women's lives.

Jessica Shaw  
Women's Representative  
647-464-5421

## **Riding Association Report**

*By Tom Grinnell*

### **SSW NDP Endorses Paul Bocking for Ward 35 City Councilor**

As a community activist, Paul is a member of Scarborough Transit Action and Respect Scarborough, and a co-founder of West Scarborough Community Action. He is a columnist on city politics and education issues with the Scarborough Bluffs Advocate monthly community newspaper.

As a public high school teacher in the Toronto District School Board, Paul has taught Geography, World Religions and English, and coached athletics at Birchmount Park Collegiate and Winston Churchill Collegiate in Scarborough. As an adult educator at the City Adult Learning Centre, he taught classes in ESL Civics and Careers with newcomers and refugees to Canada.

Paul is currently completing his PhD in Geography at York University. He also holds a Masters Degree in Work & Society from McMaster University.

Paul's campaign will focus on good jobs, improving and extending the public services we residents use every day, and building more bottom-up democratic decision-making from our communities to City Hall.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the SSW NDP Riding executive passed a motion to support the candidacy of Paul. We are proud to support him in this endeavor. For more information please visit <http://www.paulbocking.com>.

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

### **Provincial Candidate Search Alert!**

The SSW NDP is still actively searching for candidates in the next Ontario election. Although we currently have two declared candidates, we are still looking for other qualified candidates who may want to contest the nomination. Please contact Dan Danielson at [johndantoronto@gmail.com](mailto:johndantoronto@gmail.com)

### **Scarborough United Dinner with Tom Mulcair a Huge Success**

We were very encouraged by the amazing turnout at our October dinner with Federal NDP Leader Tom Mulcair. Lead by the SSW NDP, over 150 guests attended dinner with our leader Tom Mulcair. The event raised a substantial amount of money for MP Dan Harris' and other Scarborough riding's 2015 election campaigns. Thank you for your support!

### **Pub Night with MP Nathan Cullen**

Thank you to all of you who turned out to the Scarborough United Pub Night with NDP MP Nathan Cullen. The event was free of charge and gave a chance for us to talk politics with our Deputy Leader Nathan Cullen. We look forward to hosting other events like this in the future.

### **Fundraising Update!**

Contribute directly to the SSW NDP to help re-elect our MP Dan Harris. Make your contribution today at:

<https://secure.ndp.ca/riding/index.php?riding=35084&language=e>

### **Looking for Membership Committee Volunteers**

The SSW NDP Membership Organizer Tom Grinnell has started a membership committee. We are seeking 8 active members to assist with membership recruitment, renewal, and membership updates. If you are interested in assisting with organizing our membership please get in touch. Time commitment is 4 Hours per month. Call Tom Grinnell at 647 461 9988 or email

[tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca)

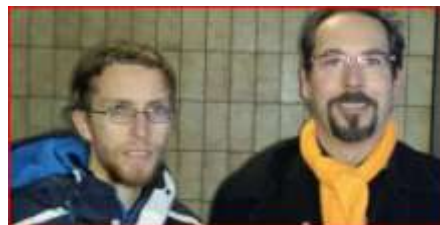
### **Check out the SSW NDP Online**

For the latest updates from SSW NDP and for selected posts from our MP Dan Harris, visit us online at <http://sswndp.ca/>

## **Election Day Victory in Niagara Falls aided by SSW NDP Members**

*By Ian Roberts*

On Thursday, February 13, Rev. Alexander Wilson and I, accompanied by Eileen Higdon (from Pickering-Scarborough East), traveled down to Niagara Falls to help get out the vote in the provincial by-election taking place in that riding. This was not my first time helping



Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

on E-day for a by-election, but it was the first time that I had helped on an election outside of Toronto. Even though the three of us were only there for a couple of hours, it felt great to be doing our part in whichever way we could.

It was also great to see a campaign office that was bustling full of activity, with supporters ready to head out the door to go work as inside and outside scrutineers. There were a couple of famous faces there too! We drove Peter Tabuns (MPP for Toronto-Danforth) to the poll where he was scrutineering.

Working as an outside scrutineer also gave me experience that was different from what I had helped out with on other campaigns, such as the Adam Giambrone and Linda McQuaig campaigns, where I had worked on data entry. It was a bit intimidating knocking on doors in an unfamiliar city at first, but with the help of 2 experienced companions (Alex and Eileen), I soon got the hang of it!

Unfortunately, we couldn't stay for the victory party, but I was very glad to hear the results later that night. I was glad to hear that the voters in Niagara Falls voted to put their trust in a party that would bring real change to a region of the province that is sometimes ignored (being just outside the shadow of Toronto and the 905 region) and that voters had not been scared by PC Leader Tim Hudak's attacks on our candidate Wayne Gates.

All in all, I was definitely glad that I took this opportunity to help out and I hope that Wayne Gates will be around for quite awhile to make sure that the voice of the citizens of Niagara Falls is heard at Queen's Park!

## **The Bluffs Advocate Newspaper**

*By Tom Grinnell*

The Bluffs Advocate Newspaper has been an exciting initiative launched by Bob Spencer and friends. The Advocate has now distributed twelve editions to 15 000 readers across East Toronto. Although this is not a NDP newspaper, the advocate presents a progressive view point to East Toronto residents.

We have several progressive columnists addressing labour, environmental, community, and education issues that effect the



East Toronto community. The advocate is a welcome progressive voice to our local media environment that has been largely conservative.

The Bluffs Advocate needs your help! We need help delivering papers, selling advertising, and much more. If you are interested in assisting, or joining the co-operatively run newspaper please contact Tom Grinnell at 647-461-9988 [tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:tgrinnel@lakeheadu.ca) or visit the website at <http://bluffsadvocate.ca/>

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

# Upcoming Events

## **International Womens Day – March 8, 2014**

International Women's Day Celebration -- with special guest and keynote speaker Shirley Douglas

**Starts: March 8th, 2014 - 12:00pm**

**Ends: March 8th, 2014 - 4:00pm**

**Where: AccessPoint on Danforth (APOD)**

**3079 Danforth Avenue**

AccessPoint is located on Danforth Avenue just east of Victoria Park. Street parking is limited, it is recommended that those driving should park at Shopper's World. AccessPoint is also walking distance from Victoria Park subway station and is accessible by the 12/12A, 20 and 113 bus routes.

You're invited to celebrate International Women's Day with special guest & keynote speaker Shirley Douglas (Canadian actress, advocate for public healthcare and social justice activist)

This FREE event will also feature:

local, cultural entertainment; a short film on IWD celebrations around the world; information on local services for women; sharing of stories from local women and their experiences; yoga and stress management information; light refreshments will be served

This family-friendly event is a collaboration with many community members and the following organizations:

Dan Harris MP for Scarborough Southwest, Shwasti, West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre, Action for Neighbourhood Change, Neighbourhood Centre, Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services, Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre, AccessPoint on Danforth, Access Alliance, City of Toronto, Bangladesh Centre and Community Services

## **Scarborough Pints and Politics Night – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 6:30PM**

Do you want to get rid of Rob Ford, Stephen Harper and the winter blahs? Well we do to! Join fellow SSW New Democrats as we ponder and plot how to advance the leftist agenda at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Pints and Politics night. This is where all of the thinking (and maybe some drinking) happens. If you want to get to know other NDP members from the riding, and like minded individuals, this is a good chance to make those connections. Hope to see you out!

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

**6:30 PM March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
*The Old Stone Cottage*  
3750 Kingston Road (Kingston & Scarborough Golf Club Rd.)

**NDP March Break Skating Party hosted by MP Dan Harris – March 11 & 13, 2014**

Starts: March 11th, 2014 - 10:00am  
Ends: March 13th, 2014 - 3:00pm  
Where: Two locations

Join us for our 2nd Annual March Break Family Skating at our two local arenas! Stop by with your family and friends, and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with your MP Dan Harris and his team!

Tuesday March 11, 2014  
Birchmount Community Centre (93 Birchmount Road)  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday March 13, 2014  
Don Montgomery Community Centre (2467 Eglinton Avenue East)  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

\*\*\* Thanks to the 41 Division Community Police Liaison Committee, skates will be available for those who do not have them. If you have an old pair of skates you would like to donate, please contact my office for more information.

(Please note that free skates will only be available at the Thursday March 13 skate at Don Montgomery CC. Size of skates available will depend on donations.)

**Stop the Cutbacks at Canada Post Day of Action with MP Dan Harris – March 22, 2014**

Join MP Dan Harris to fight the Harper Conservative cuts to Canada Post services, and the loss of thousands of decent paying Canadian Jobs.

We will be canvassing door-to-door and asking for signatures on a petition to SAVE CANADA POST.

**Saturday March 22, 2014**

**Contact CANDACE JAZVAC at 416-261-8613 for details**

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>



# SSW NDP in Action



Tom Grinnell & Jessica Shaw supporting COPE 343 Strikes @ Porter Airlines



Paul Bocking at his Ward 35 City Councilor Campaign Launch



SSW NDP with MP Nathan Cullen



SSW NDP Volunteers with Toronto Centre Candidate Linda McQuaig

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>

# Your Scarborough Southwest NDP Team

President  
Federal VP  
Provincial VP  
Provincial CFO/Federal Treasurer  
Membership Organizer  
Secretary  
Provincial Council Rep.  
Provincial Council Rep./ Women's Rep.  
Youth Officer  
Youth Officer  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Member at large  
Incumbent MP for SSW

Dan Danielson  
Paul Bocking  
Candace Jazvac  
David Harris  
Tom Grinnell  
Rosemary Dale  
Bob Spencer  
Jessica Shaw  
Guled Arale  
Grace Gin  
Bruce Budd  
Michelle Chateauvert  
Coline Gardhouse  
Debessai Ghermatzion  
Jeremy Lu  
Diana McLaren  
Ian Roberts  
Brenda Thompson  
Richard White  
Alex Wilson  
Oliver Wilson  
Dan Harris, M.P.

**For SSW NDP inquiries and information on how to make a financial contribution to the SSW NDP please contact:**

**Tom Grinnell**  
**Phone: 647-461-9988**  
**Email: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca)**  
**Website: <http://sswndp.ca>**



MP Dan Harris with  
Constituents at his  
Community Skate

Contact us: [contact@sswndp.ca](mailto:contact@sswndp.ca) or 647-461-9988 Website: <http://sswndp.ca>